GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3543
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK IN MAHARASHTRA
NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rural Telecommunication Network in Maharashtra is not working properly and mostly non-functional ;

(b) if so, the details thereof including assessment made by Technical committee in this regard ;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the situation ;

(d) whether the Government propose to expand, develop, upgrade and modernize Telecommunication Network in rural areas of Maharashtra during 2000-2001;

(e) if so, the details thereof ; and

(f) the funds allocated for the purpose during the said period ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS

(SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) No Sir, the rural telecommunications network in Maharshtra is generally working satisfactorily.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) The steps taken by Government to improve Telecom Services in rural areas are given in the enclosed ANNEXURE.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) The following plans have been made for rural areas:-

Sl.No.	Item	Maharashtra	Goa	Total
1	New Exchanges	345	5	350
2	DELs	95,000	5000	1,00,000
3	Net s/w Capacity	1,45,000	5000	1,50,000
4	OFC(Kms)	9000	200	9200

(f) Demands for Grants for the year 2000-2001 for Department of Telecom Services has not been approved by the Parliament as yet. Statewise allocation of funds will be done only after approval of DFG by the Parliament.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PART (c) OF L0K SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3543 FOR 17 TH APRIL REGARDING TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORK IN MAHARASHTRA.
ANNEXURE

Steps taken by Government to improve Telecom services in rural areas

For Telephone Exchanges :
1. All exchanges in rural areas have been converted into electronic exchanges.

2. Reliable media is being provided to all the exchanges in rural areas and by year 2002 all exchanges shall be connected on reliable media.

4. Standby generators and maintenance- free batteries are being installed to take care of frequent power failures in rural areas.

5. Daily testing of subscribers line is done from the exchanges. 6. Laying of more and more underground cables to reduce the length of open wire lines for giving telephone connections.

For Village Public Telephones :
1. Testing of village public telephones daily from the exchange.

2. Testing of MARR links daily from the Base station.

3. Flying squads have been constituted at circle/TCHQ level.

4. Annual maintenance contract are being finalized with the supplier of the system.

5. New technologies are being tried in the network for provision of village public telephones viz. WILL(wireless in local loop), CDOT TDMA PMP systems and satellite based terminals for remote and inaccessible areas.